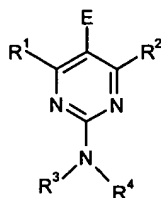


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises

- a) reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^3R^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to ~~form~~forming a dihydropyrimidine; and

- b) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in ~~step a)~~ to form the compound of Formula (1) wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

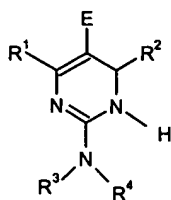
R^2 is H, ~~or~~ an alkyl, or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[,]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups[,]; or X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~are =O.

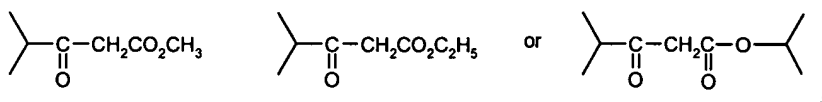
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the dihydropyrimidine is represented by the Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



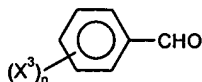
Formula (2a)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and E are as defined in claim 1.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the compound of formula R^1 -CO-CH₂-E is a compound of formulae:



4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the compound of formula R^2 -CHX¹X² is a compound of formula:



wherein X³ ~~represents is~~ halo, and n is 0 or 1-5, ~~and preferably 4-fluorobenzaldehyde~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the compound of formula R^3R^4N -C(=NH)NH₂ is guanidine or methylguanidine.

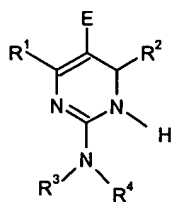
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the compound of formula R^3R^4N -C(=NH)NH₂ is employed as a hydrochloride or sulfate salt.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the catalyst is a base.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the base is an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate or hydrogencarbonate.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein the oxidising agent is manganese dioxide.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

wherein

R¹ is H or an alkyl group;

R² is H, or an alkyl, or aryl group;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[,]; provided that R³ and R⁴ are not both unsubstituted alkyl; and

E is an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group[,]; further provided that R¹ is not -CH₃ when R² is unsubstituted phenyl or o-nitrophenyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10, wherein R² ~~represents~~ is a phenyl group substituted by with one or more halogens.

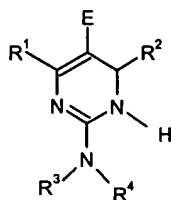
12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein at least one of R³ and R⁴ is H.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein R¹ ~~represents~~ is isopropyl and R² ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 13~~, wherein R³ is H or methyl and R⁴ is H.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 10 to 14, wherein E ~~represents~~ is a group of formula $-\text{CO}_2(\text{C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl})$.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (2a) and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula $\text{R}^1-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-\text{E}$ with a compound of formula $\text{R}^2-\text{CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $\text{R}^3\text{R}^4\text{N}-\text{C}(=\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to ~~form~~ forming the compound of Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is an H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is an H, ~~or~~ an alkyl, or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

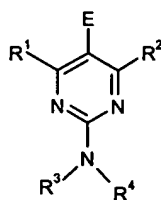
E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups[[,]]; or X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~ are $=\text{O}$.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~ is isopropyl, R^2 ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl, and R^3 and R^4 are each independently ~~represents~~ H or methyl.

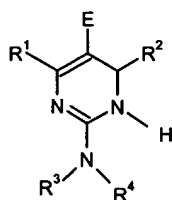
18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein R^3 is methyl and R^4 is H.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises oxidising a compound of Formula (2a):



Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is an H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

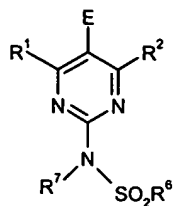
R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring; and

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~is isopropyl, R^2 ~~represents~~is 4-fluorophenyl, and R^3 and R^4 are each independently ~~represents~~ H or methyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein the oxidation employs manganese dioxide.

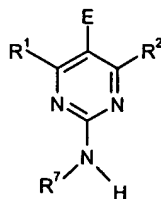
22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):



Formula (3)

which comprises

- a) reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^7\text{HN-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby ~~to~~ forming a dihydropyrimidine;
- b) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in ~~step~~ a) to form a compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

and

- c) reacting the compound of Formula (4) with a compound of formula $R^6\text{SO}_2\text{-X}^4$ to give a compound of Formula (3);

wherein

R^1, R^2, E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

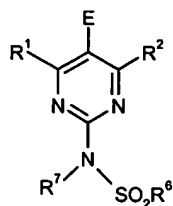
X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

~~R^6 represents is alkyl or aryl, preferably methyl;~~

R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

~~X^4 represents is a leaving group, preferably Cl or Br.~~

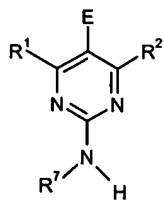
23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):



Formula (3)

which comprises

- a) reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^7\text{HN-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to form a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula -NHR^7 ;
- b) reacting the compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

with a compound of formula $R^6\text{SO}_2\text{-X}^4$ to form a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula $\text{-N(R}^7\text{)SO}_2\text{R}^6$;

- c) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in step b) to form a compound of Formula (3);

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

R^1 , R^2 , E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;

R^6 represents is alkyl or aryl, preferably methyl;

R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

X^4 represents is a leaving group, preferably Cl or Br.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 22-~~or 23~~, wherein R¹ ~~represents is~~ isopropyl, R² ~~represents is~~ 4-fluorophenyl, X¹ and X² together ~~represent are~~ =O, R⁶ ~~represents is~~ methyl, E ~~represents is~~ a group of formula -CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl), and R⁷ is H or methyl.

25. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (CH₃)₂CH-CO-CH₂-CO₂-C₃H₇.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 25, of formula:

